

BEDES Working Group Meeting 2-24-15 (Strategic Topics) – Discussion Summary

Current Work

- Several people mentioned that they are interested in integrating BEDES with their products; Paul and the BEDES team can be contacted directly with questions and for assistance with this process.
- Question regarding how BEDES fits into DOE's tools ecosystem: BEDES is fully integrated with several DOE tools. BuildingSync specifically is the subset of BEDES terms that involves commercial audits. Additional details will be provided later in the meeting.

What does it mean to be a BEDES compliant product?

- Question regarding a minimum threshold of terms for BEDES compliance; currently there is no minimum number of terms.
- Who determines compliance? The gold standard of compliance involves a rigorous, established process overseen by an organization. It will be a while till we get there. In the interim, BEDES compliance involves LBNL staff reviewing your document and determining BEDES compliance. It will be important to keep in mind that compliance will build a "network" of users who can exchange information, encouraging adoption.
- Question regarding whether products that currently use HPXML can be considered BEDES compliant: Not currently – but agree that we should find some way to recognize applications that use BEDES-compliant schemas. While HPXML itself is compliant, individual products would still have to translate their data. At some point it may become possible to translate HPXML data using a program, perhaps something that sits on the BEDES site.
- The building industry is very fragmented, ultimately it will be important to encourage adoption either by mandating or by providing value to adopters.

BEDES Adoption – Current Efforts

- Good idea to not only list BEDES compliant products, but also show how users are using the BEDES-compliant products.

Ideas to Push Adoption

- BEDES-adopters should be mentioned on the LBNL/DOE website, but not so far as to endorse individual companies or products.
- A strategy to meet the needs of each tier of adopters should be developed. For example, first tier adopters like DOE and the labs would have different requirements than second tier adopters like state and local governments.
- Some potential adopters concerned about waiting until BEDES stabilizes. As future changes to BEDES will mostly be additions rather than changes to existing definitions, adopters are encouraged to go ahead starting in March.

- Requiring BEDES compliant schemas for DOE FOAs is a very effective way to encourage adoption. Currently required for commercial FOAs, but trying to expand more broadly.

BEDES Searchable Website:

- Could offer regular expression searching (RegEx); more powerful searching that would be useful for software developers, and could help get around edge cases that would otherwise be difficult to apply.
- Also important to be able to track revisions. Additions can be tracked using the version number, but changes to existing terms are harder.
- Would there be a way to find common qualifiers? Some utilities track data requests and determine what people are searching for.
- Some redundancies and duplication of terms has already been discovered; these deletions could cause some issues, but better to go through them now then worry about deletions in the future.
- Right now BEDES is difficult to navigate. At some point we may want to supply a resource. like a guide, to help people find qualifiers, add qualifiers, etc.